Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for different 121 pesticides in different foods namely, foodgrains, rice, spices, tea, milk and milk products, fruits and vegetables, dried fruits, meat, poultry, egg, fish, cottonseed and cotton seed oils, groundnut, oil seeds, rice bran have been prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955. The MRLs for different pesticides in various crops/food have been laid down under Rule 65 of PFA Rules, 1955 for ensuring safe food for consumer health. As regard, carbonated water, the water conforming to the standards precribed for packaged drinking water under PFA Rules, 1955 is to be used for which the MRL for pesticide residues has been prescribed.

MRLs for pesticides that are fixed, taking into consideration the Accepted Daily Intake (ADI), food consumption pattern, post harvest interval and toxicology are not harmful to human health.

Food testing laboratories

542. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any checking system has been evolved in the country to find out residue of pesticides in the beverages and eatables;

(b) if so, the total number of laboratories set up, so far under this checking system in the country and its locations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to insufficient number of laboratories, the monitoring system has gone faulty; and

(d) if so, the number of laboratories to be set up in the next two years and the total number of the laboratories estimated to be required for an effective monitoring system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954, there is a provision for analysis of food samples, collected by Food Inspectors for monitoring adulteration in food, by Public Analysts. The notified laboratories analyse food samples as per the prescribed standards for limit of variability, contaminants including

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

pesticides. There are 72 Food Testing Laboratories in the country set up by the State/UT Governments and Local Bodies besides 4 Central Food Laboratories, which are appellate laboratories under the Act, situated at Kolkata, Ghaziabad, Pune and Mysore.

Population explosion and food

543. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that population of country has crossed one thousand million;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to over population despite the efforts of Government, common man is not getting the basic facilities of food, cloth and shelter; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by Government to check the increasing population and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is admitted that growing population causes a strain on natural and civic resources of the country.

Various steps have been taken to stabilize the population of the country. The National Population Policy (NPP) has been adopted by Government in 2000. The National Commission on Population (NCP) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to monitor the implementation of the National Commission on Population. The National Population Stabilisation Fund (NPSF), i.e. Janasankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) has been set up as an autonomous body with a corpus of Rs. 100 crore to promote peoples' involvement in Family Welfare Programme. An Empowered Action Group (EAG) has been constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare to give focused attention to the 8 demographically weaker Slates. The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme was launched by Government in 1997 for provision of reproductive, maternal, child health and contraceptive services to the people. More recently, the Government has decided to launch a National Rural

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